

JANUARY 1955

VOL. 30 NO. 1

Cumora's Southern Messenger

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.



A Prayer For 1955

Our Father in Heaven, at this time as we approach a New Year, we, Thy Saints, beseech Thee, in Thy mercy to forgive us our transgressions, and to confer Thy blessings upon us for the coming year. Confer upon us Thy people, and especially our leaders, in all their varied callings, Thy precious gifts of love, wisdom and understanding. Bless us with that valuable faith, and spirit of testimony, light and intelligence and sincere understanding, and capacity to live Thy commandments and to obtain all those blessed attributes and qualifications that will aid us to better serve Thee and learn to love and glorify Thee.

Our Father in Heaven, bless us with Thy richest blessings and qualifications and attributes, so necessary and desirable to good membership of Thy glorious kingdom—those blessings that will enable us to live and understand more fully Thy Gospel, and that this great and important work may continue to go forth to all sincere seekers after truth. To further its consumation and fulfil its glorious purpose.

Grant us and all good people who seek Thee, Thy grace that we Thy people, may be preserved and strengthened against the wiles of the adversary. Bless us this coming year that we may grow in faith and unity, with stronger testimonies, and greater love for our fellowmen. Guide us constantly through Thy Holy Spirit, in the way of revealed light and truth, and keep us in the bonds of love and holiness of life in Thy Gospel. We pray that Thou will bless and strengthen the weak and ill in our fold, bless the weak in faith that they may be granted added strength to overcome temptation, that they may face the problems of life with added fortitude and with greater faith in Thee.

May we be blessed to ever seek to know more of Thee and Thy ways, and be more able to further serve and glorify Thee, our Heavenly Father.

May the New Year see added growth and greater numbers in Thy Gospel. May Thy Holy Spirit be richly imparted to those who earnestly seek Thee, that they may walk righteously and circumspectly before Thee. May the rich inspiration of Thy Holy Son, and the abiding influence of the Holy Ghost ever abide with us. We humbly and sincerely beseech Thee to bless our lawmakers and leaders of our land, that they may act justly and respectfully before Thee. We humbly ascribe all honour and glory to Thee in the worthy and glorious name of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Brother Tex W. Smith

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Cumorah's Southern Messenger

JANUARY 1955

Editor: Leroy H. Duncan.

Assoc. Editor: Lynn P. Walker.

CONTENTS

A Prayer for 1955	2
The Church Around the World	3
Convention Time in Cape Town	4
Missionary Convention	5
Transfers and Arrivals	13
Statistics	14
Departures	15
Appointments	16
District Highlights	17

COVER PICTURE

NATIVE WARRIOR

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PRES. MCKAY GIVEN ROYAL AWARD BY KING OF GREECE:

Additional international honours came to President David O. McKay recently as he received the highest award that can be bestowed by the King of Greece.

At impressive ceremonies in the Hotel Utah President McKay received the Cross of Commander of the Royal Order of the Phoenix. The high honour was bestowed on President McKay by John Tzounis, Greek Consul from San Francisco, who was acting for King Paul of the Hellenes.

Mr. Tzounis paid high tribute to the Church for its aid to Greek peoples, especially during the earthquakes in the Ionian Islands in 1953.

"It is no secret," Mr. Tzounis said, "and I am thankful for this opportunity to stress the fact publicly, that the contribution of the Mormon Church was the greatest single contribution to the relief fund, not only in the United States, but the whole world over.

"For the material assistance we are grateful. But we are even more appreciative of the thought behind the deed. For in the hour of disaster we felt the heart-warming breath of friendship. We saw humanity in action, prompted not by calculated expediency, but practiced in the convenience of liberality."

President McKay accepted the decoration graciously and humbly as he explained that he was only a representative of the members of the Church and the Welfare Department. He asked Mr. Tzounis to convey to His Majesty King Paul of the Hellenes the Church's deep gratitude. "We send our blessings to him and to the Greek people," President McKay said.

L.D.S. RHODES SCHOLAR

RUGBY STAR: The first American ever to score a goal in Rugby at the home of the game, Twickenham, England, is V. M. W. Jones, Latter-day Saint Rhodes Scholar attending Oxford University.

The news story, as reported by Reuters, is as follows:

Twickenham, England, Nov 20 (Reuters): An American student at Oxford University, who learned his blocks and tackles in the United States, today scored the equivalent of a touchdown in an English Rugby Union football game for Oxford University.

V. M. W. Jones, who attended Dartmouth and Stanford, made one of the two goals for Oxford as they downed the Harlequins team, 13-0.

200,000 HEARS L.D.S. SERVICES IN SAMOA: "Rapid progress is being made in breaking down the barriers of opposition which we have been fighting for so many years in the Samoan Mission," writes Elder Howard B. Stone, mission president, as he tells of a recent "Church of the Air" programme presented by the mission.

The programme was preceded by 15 minutes of records of the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir. The programme was conducted by Pesega District President Lafi A. Teolupe. Music was provided by the Pesega School Choir of 100 voices, most of whom are members of the Church.

Speakers were President Mauga Tapusoa from the Tutuila District. He spoke on "Chastity," and President Stone, who addressed the 500 persons gathered in the auditorium, on "The Benefits of the Restored Gospel to Samoa."

CONVENTION TIME

IN CAPE TOWN

By Elder Lynn P. Walker

On December 14th the hearty hand-shakes and happy conversations of the missionaries as they met together in Cape Town momentarily came to a standstill as President Leroy H. Duncan arose and welcomed the 75 missionaries who had gathered at the mission home in Cape Town to attend the missionary convention of the South African Mission. The Elders, who had travelled from all parts of the Union and Southern Rhodesia with the intention of bettering their proselyting methods, were climaxing a year of enjoyable missionary experiences as they began their weeks activities. Under the direction of President Duncan

CAPE TOWN HOSPITALITY

The Mission Presidency and elders wish to express their deepest gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality of members and friends during their Missionary Convention. Had it not been for your kindness our reunion would not have been possible. Many thanks for your generosity in providing us with rooms and meals. None of us will ever forget the hospitality and many considerations we received in your homes. We wish you all a prosperous and happy New Year and pray that the Lord will bless you always.

an interesting schedule had been planned and built around the subjects of visual aids, Book of Mormon, cottage meetings and other items pertaining to missionary work. Considerable emphasis was placed on the use of visual aids to show their value in teaching the Gospel. Each lesson in the proselyting plan was presented with accompanying visual aids. The results was the development of many new ideas and improved methods of teaching the truths of the Gospel.

Instructions to help and inspire the missionaries were given by President Duncan, members of the mission presidency and the office staff, along with that of several of the missionaries who had spent much time in preparing material of interest and value for the group. Each day Sister Duncan and her efficient helpers served a delicious dinner which corresponded perfectly with the well arranged convention and prepared topics. The lessons and instructions came to a close Saturday morning when an eight hour fast and testimony meeting began. Every minute of the eight hours was enjoyed by those present as the spiritually uplifting meeting took place. All who were in attendance bore a firm testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel and missionary work. The humility, the joy, and the love and happiness that accompanied the testimonies brought tears of thanksgiving to the eyes of those present.

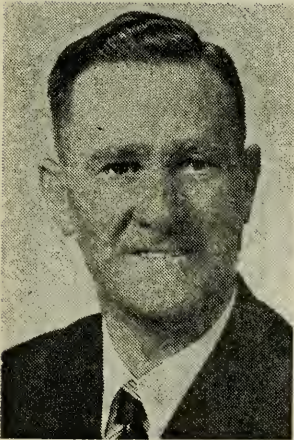
The gathering was terminated Sunday, the 12th December, with a two session conference at which missionaries, members, and investigators enjoyed the heart warming experiences told by the speakers. The people left the services with a definite impression of having experienced a most successful and spiritual up-building day.

During the convention the statement, "Always be at your best," which President David O. McKay left with the missionaries during his visit early last year, was adopted as a slogan. As the missionaries returned to their various fields of labour they had a feeling of enjoyment and enthusiasm, a much better working knowledge of the Gospel and proselyting methods, and a renewed determination to teach and share the Gospel with the people of South Africa. As they climbed aboard the trains which would take them to their areas the thought was ringing in their minds, "I will always be at my best."

MISSIONARIES CONVENTION 1954



PRES. LEROY H. DUNCAN
Mission President



PRES. ALVIN PARK
1st Counsellor



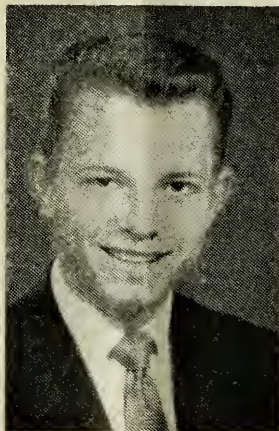
PRES. JOHN GRISMORE
2nd Counsellor



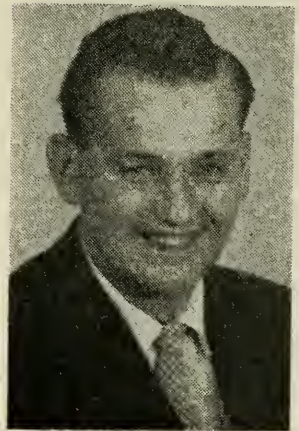
SISTER NORA DUNCAN
Mission Relief Society
President



ELDER LORIN GODFREY
Mission Secretary



ELDER LYNN WALKER
Mission Historian



ELDER JOHN FRANCIS
Supervising Elder
West Bend



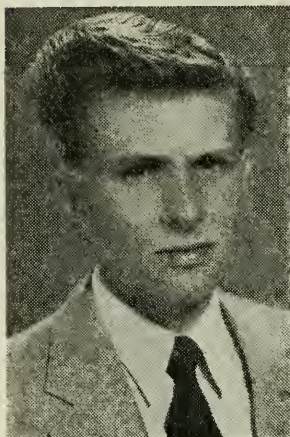
SISTER MARLENE NEWBY
Private Secretary to
Mission President



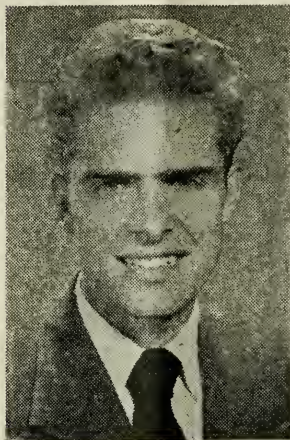
SISTER PHYLLIS JOHNSON
Mission Supervisor of
Auxiliaries



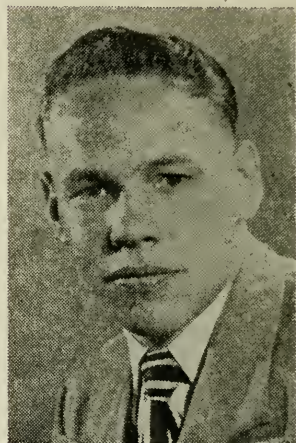
SISTER THYRA TALEOT
Cape



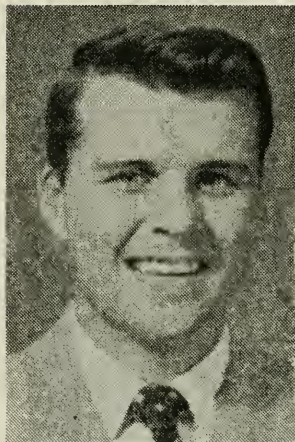
ELDER GARY FORBUSH
Supervising Elder
East Rand



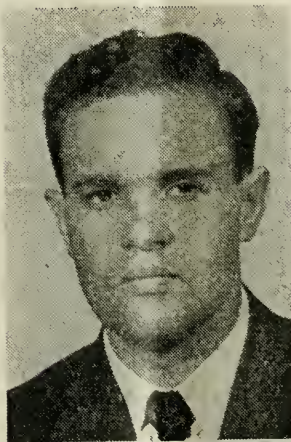
ELDER GARY ELLIOTT
Supervising Elder
Durban



ELDER ALLEN CALDWELL
Supervising Elder
Port Elizabeth



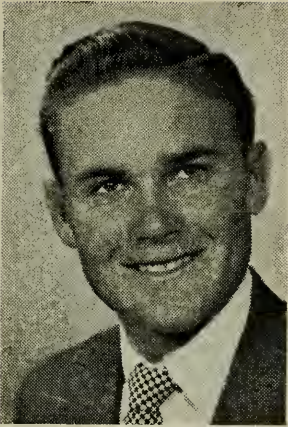
ELDER DEAN JARMAN
Supervising Elder
Pretoria



ELDER CURTIS TRACY
Supervising Elder
East London



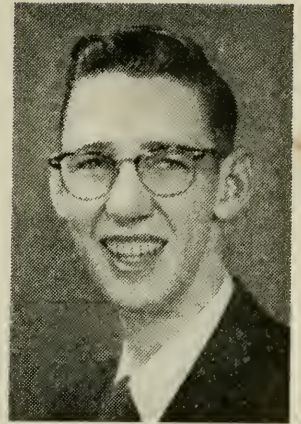
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Supervising Elder
Bloemfontein



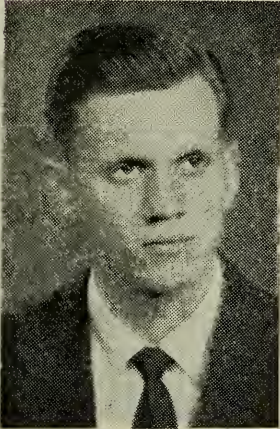
ELDER GARY PLATT
Supervising Elder
Welkom



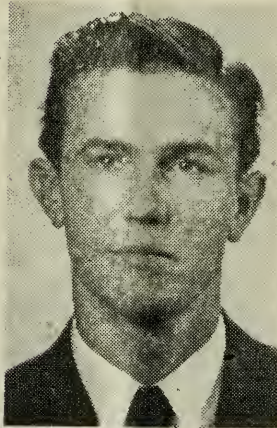
ELDER JERRY YOUNG
Supervising Elder
Bulawayo



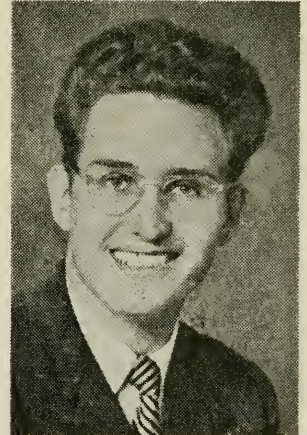
ELDER JOHN KENNARD
Cape



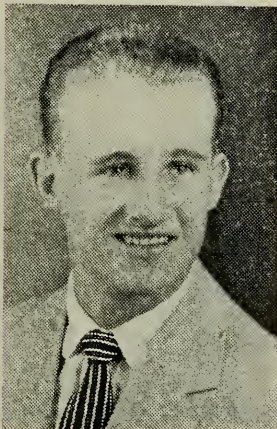
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Cape



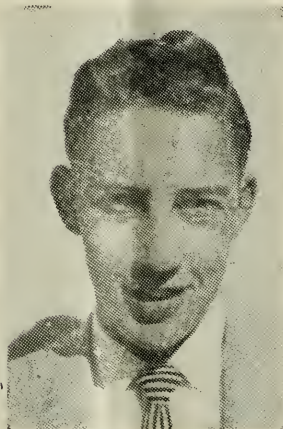
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Cape



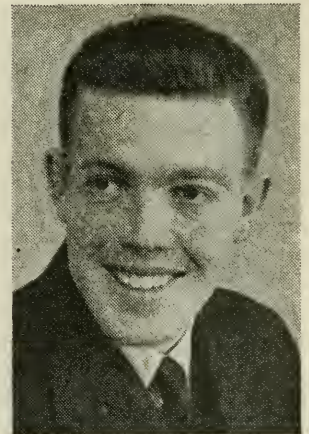
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Cape



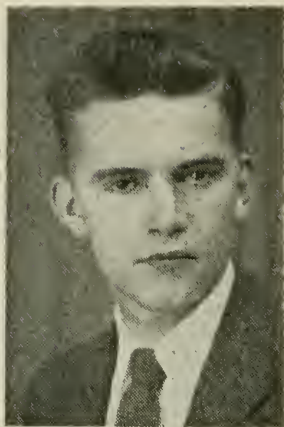
ELDER GERALD HENDERSON
Cape



ELDER JAMES BEAN
Cape



ELDER RONALD DUNCAN
East London



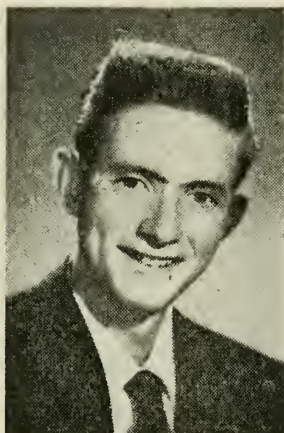
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East London



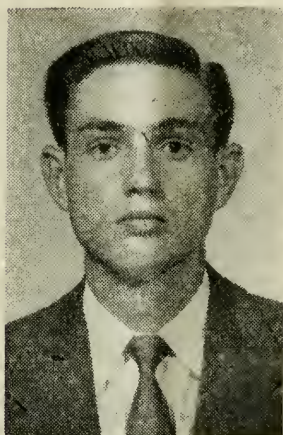
ELDER IVINS SCHMID
East London



ELDER ELMER WILFORD
Welkom



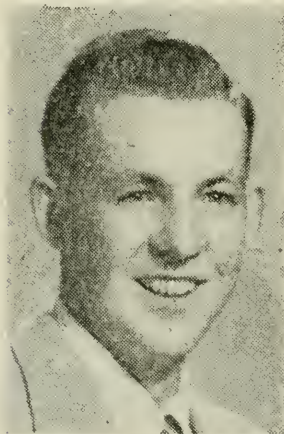
ELDER WALLACE SALING
Bloemfontein



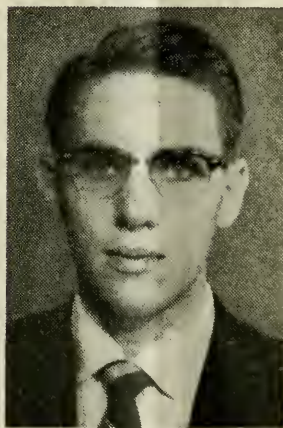
ELDER KENT TAYLOR
Bulawayo



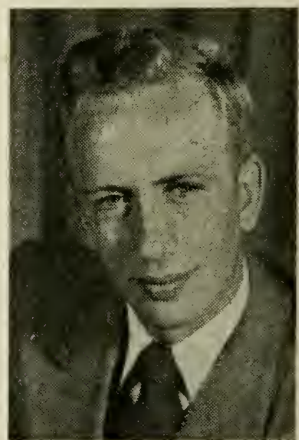
ELDER RUEL HYER
Durban



ELDER THERALD QUAYLE
Durban



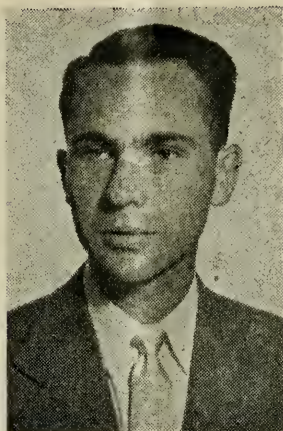
ELDER REED SNOW
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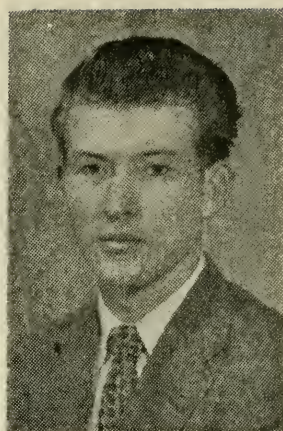
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Durban



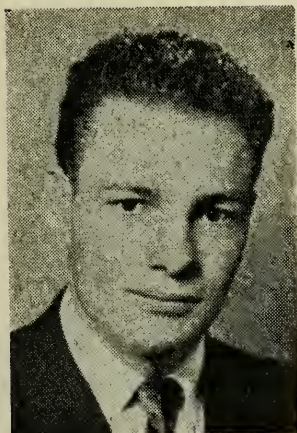
ELDER PAUL SMITH,
Durban



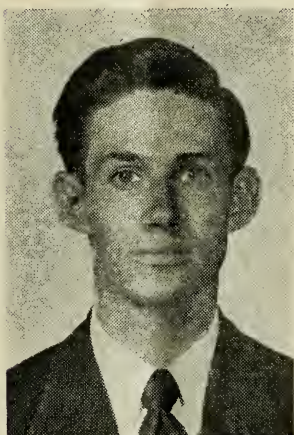
ELDER ERNEST HUBBARD
Durban



ELDER BRUCE ERICKSON
Durban



ELDER CHARLES SESSIONS
Durban



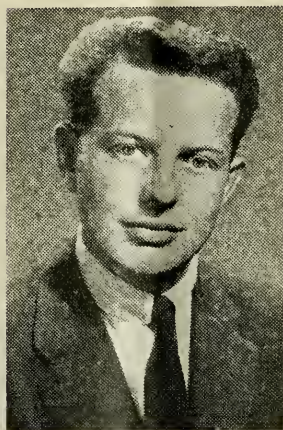
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Port Elizabeth



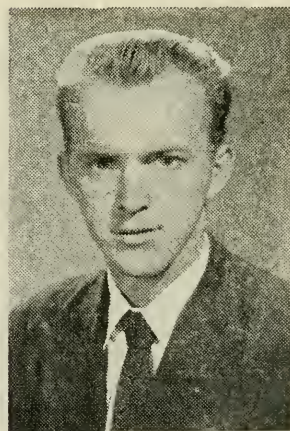
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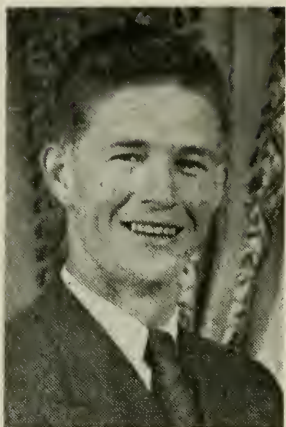
**ELDER ROYAL
CHRISTENSEN**
Port Elizabeth



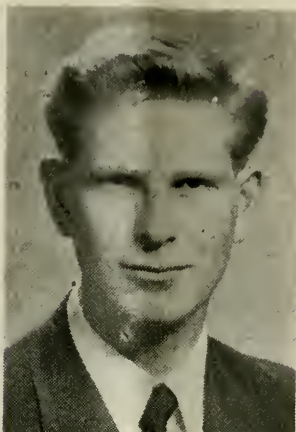
**ELDER GEORGE
FREDERICKSON**
Port Elizabeth



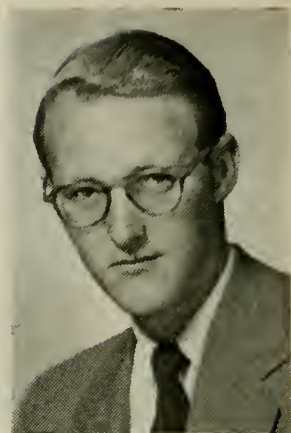
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West Rand



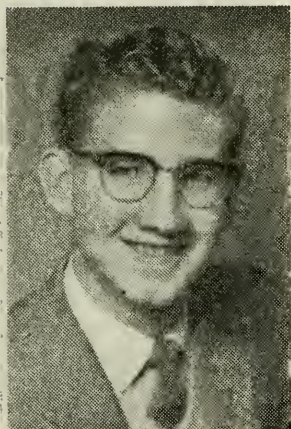
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West Rand



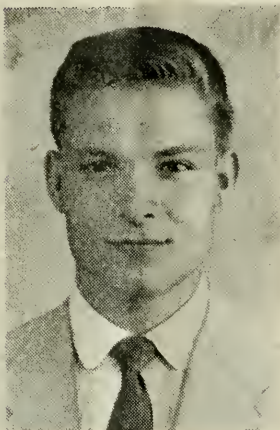
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ELDER RONALD RAGSDALE
West Rand



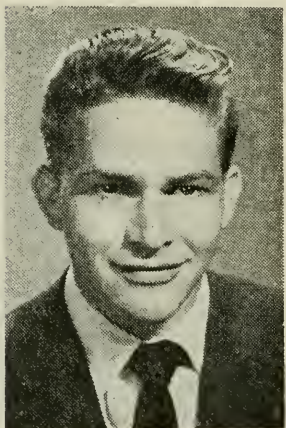
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West Rand



ELDER ALLEN MILLER
West Rand



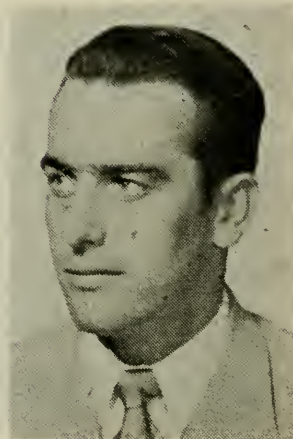
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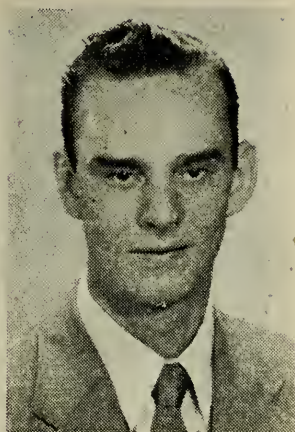
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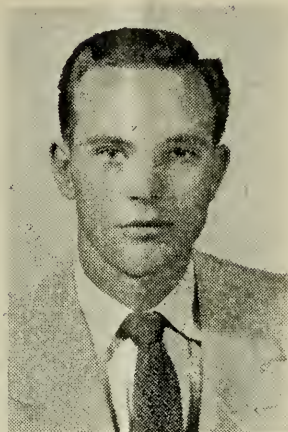
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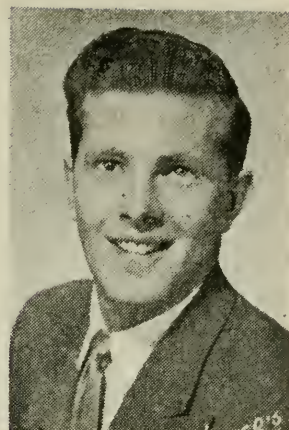
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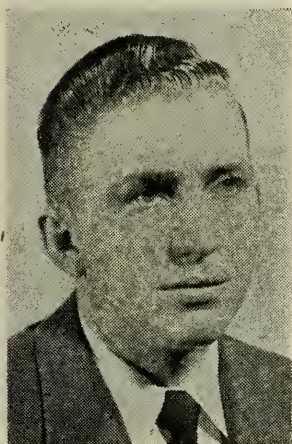
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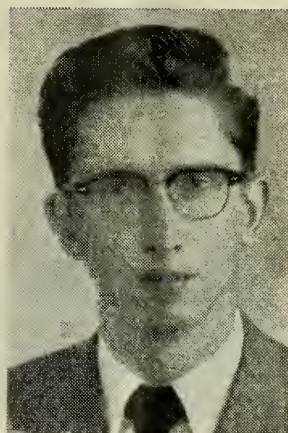
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ELDER ORVIL GRIGOR
East Rand



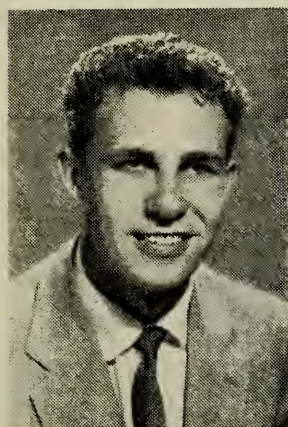
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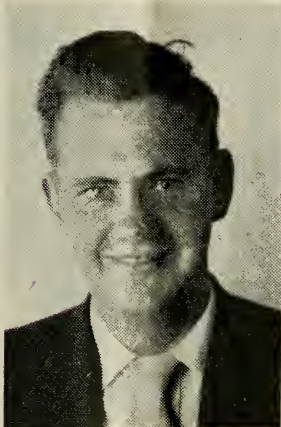
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East Rand



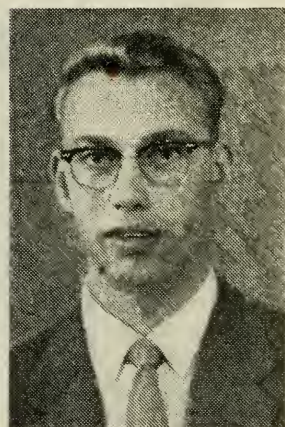
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East Rand



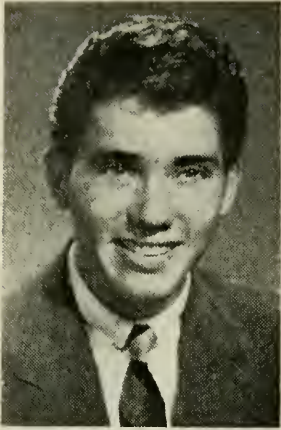
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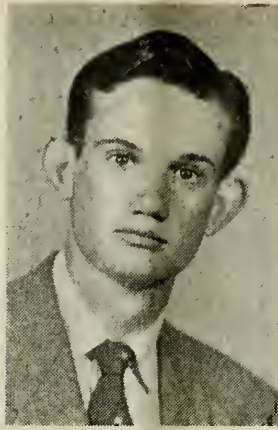
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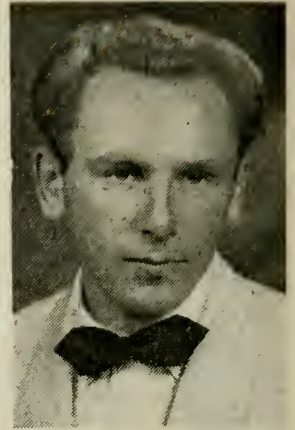
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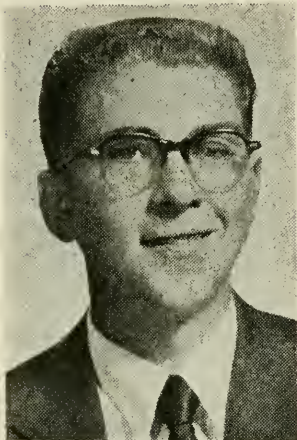
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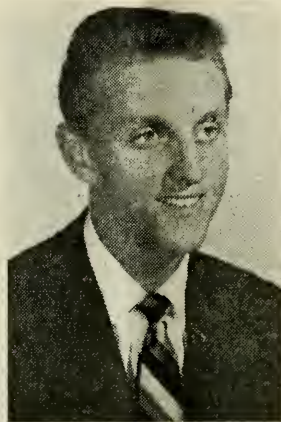
ELDER VERN HALVERSEN
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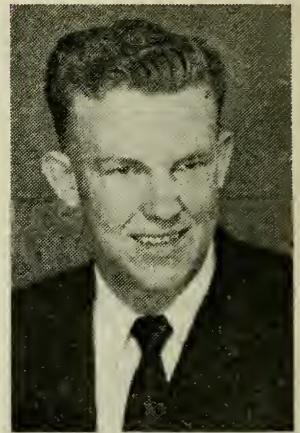
ELDER SAMUEL ROBINSON
Pretoria



ELDER ROYAL JENSEN
East Rand



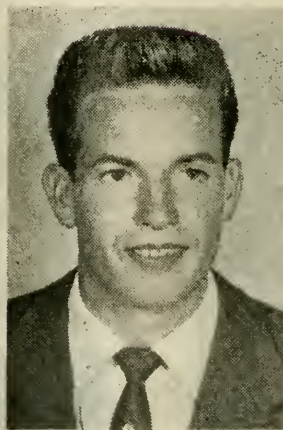
ELDER DEAN LINSAY
Pretoria



ELDER LAWRENCE STOKES
Pretoria

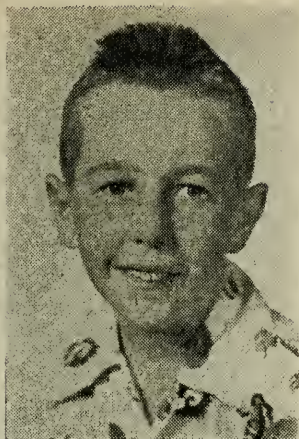


ELDER ROBERT TAYLOR
Pretoria



ELDER DON MERRILL
Pretoria

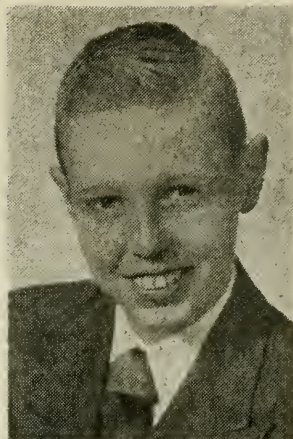
Elder Boyd Blackham was also in attendance at this convention but his picture was not available.



DALE DUNCAN



ELNA DUNCAN



RULON DUNCAN

TRANSFERS

The following transfers took place following the Missionary Convention which ended December 20th, 1954:

Transfers

Elder John R. Kennard
 Elder James H. Bean
 Elder Jerald R. Johansen
 Elder Donald G. Spencer
 Elder Elmer E. Wilford
 Elder Gary E. Elliott
 Elder Ernest D. Hubbard
 Elder Charles M. Sessions
 Elder Frank L. Jenkins
 Elder H. George Frederickson
 Elder Jack D. Fisher
 Elder Ronald O. Ragsdale
 Elder Paul I. Derrick
 Elder Rulon Fairbanks
 Elder Farrell R. Monson
 Elder Samuel P. Robinson
 Elder Farrell J. Thacker
 Elder Dean Jarman
 Elder Lawrence J. Stokes
 Elder Glen S. Osborne

from

West Rand District
 Port Elizabeth
 Cape District
 Port Elizabeth
 Cape District
 East London
 Cape District
 Durban
 West Rand District
 Cape District
 East Rand District
 Bloemfontein
 Cape District
 East Rand District
 Cape District
 Cape District
 West Rand District
 Welkom
 Durban
 West Rand District

to

Cape District
 Cape District
 Bloemfontein
 East London
 Welkom
 Durban
 Durban
 Port Elizabeth
 Port Elizabeth
 Uitenhage
 West Rand District
 West Rand District
 West Rand District
 West Rand District
 West Rand District
 East Rand District
 East Rand District
 Pretoria
 Pretoria
 East Rand District

companion

Elder Faux
 Elder Dunn
 Elder Saling
 Elder Schmid
 Elder Platt
 Elder Snow
 Elder Erickson
 Elder Caldwell
 Elder Kump
 Elder R. Christensen
 Elder Francis
 Elder Monson
 Elder Miller
 Elder Hutchins
 Elder Ragsdale
 Elder G. Christensen
 Elder G. Jensen
 Elder R. Taylor
 Elder Merrill
 Elder Halverson

ARRIVALS

The following Missionaries arrived aboard the "Carnarvon Castle" on the 9th of December, 1954:

Arrivals

Sister Thyra Talbot
 Sister Marlene L. Newby
 Sister Phyllis M. Johnson
 Elder Don W. Merrill
 Elder Boyd R. Blackham
 Elder Dee C. Wilcox
 Elder Farrell Z. Kump
 Elder Ronald L. Hadley
 Elder Noris T. Jackson

from

Lewiston, Utah, U.S.A.
 Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
 Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.
 Riverton, Utah, U.S.A.
 Huntington Park, California
 Provo, Utah, U.S.A.
 Rupert, Idaho, U.S.A.
 Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.
 Hill Spring, Alberta, Canada

assigned to

Cape Town
 Mission Office
 Mission Office
 Pretoria, Tvl.
 Pretoria, Tvl.
 Springs, Tvl.
 Port Elizabeth, Cape
 Springs, Tvl.
 Johannesburg, Tvl.

May the blessings and spirit of the Lord be with these missionaries as they perform their duties in the South African Mission.

STATISTICS

BLESSINGS

HEATHER ANN SCHEIDEL, daughter of Ronald William and Stella Mary Wright, was blessed on November 21st, 1954, by Brother Henry Melvin Jubber at East London.

ELIZABETH JEAN HUMAN, daughter of Clement Gerald and Jean Burnett, was blessed on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Gary E. Elliott at East London.

DIANNE GERALDINE HUMAN, daughter of Clement Gerald and Jean Burnett, was blessed on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Curtis L. Tracy at East London.

LESLIE JOHN DOUGLAS WINN, son of Leslie George Hubert and Patricia Adeline Toughy, was blessed on November 28th by Brother Clarence Krull at East London.

CLIVE RODNEY MACMILLAN, son of Wilford Kingsley and Helen Vera Rossouw, was blessed on December 3rd, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton at Pietermaritzburg.

BRUCE LEONARD MACMILLAN, son of Wilford Kingsley and Helen Vera Rossouw, was blessed on December 3rd, 1954, by Elder Lawrence J. Stokes at Pietermaritzburg.

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM STARK, son of Robert Vincent Clarence and Mary Christine Millan, was blessed on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Garn G. Christensen at Benoni.

RUTH GREER, daughter of Harry and Patricia Joan (Briggs), was blessed on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Gary L. Platt at Welkom, O.F.S.

ANTHONY ARTHUR FOUCHE, son of Wessel Christian and Mercier Josephine Morom, was blessed on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Gene B. Welling at Vereeniging.

ELSIE JOHANNA BRUMMER, daughter of Willem Hermanus and Anna Margaretha Cornelia (Slabbert), was blessed on December 5th, 1954, by Elder John Francis at Vereeniging.

ANN DORIS GREER, the daughter of Harry and Patricia Joan (Briggs), was blessed on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Dean Jarman at Welkom.

ERROL TERENCE JOHNSON, son of Ernest Albert Leahman and Evelene Jackson, was blessed on December 12th, 1954, by Brother Henri Hugo at Springs.

SHARON MAY RUSTON, daughter of Victor James and Margaret Elizabeth Prins, was blessed on December 19th, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton at Mowbray.

BAPTISMS

EWALT KING FUTTER, son of Reaford Edward and Margaret Alleta King, was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Brother Reaford E. Futter and confirmed on the same day by Brother Izak C. Louw.

JOHN COLIN SCHELTEMA was baptised on November 28th, 1954, by Elder Ronald O. Ragsdale and confirmed on the same day by Brother Sydney J. Spear at Bloemfontein.

FRANCIS LESLIE ABBOTT was baptised on November 26th, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton and confirmed on November 28th, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton at Durban.

HERBERT ANTHONY MITCHELL was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Paul M. Smith and confirmed on the same day by Elder George B. Everton at Pietermaritzburg.

THOMAS WALTER CHARLES DARKE was baptised on November 28th, 1954, by Elder Gary E. Elliott and confirmed on the same day by Elder Ronald P. Duncan at East London.

WILFORD KINGSLEY MACMILLAN was baptised on December 3rd, 1954, by Elder Lawrence J. Stokes and confirmed on the same day by Elder Paul M. Smith at Pietermaritzburg.

HELEN VERA (ROSSOUW) MACMILLAN was baptised on December 3rd, 1954, and confirmed on the same day by Elder Lawrence J. Stokes at Pietermaritzburg.

MARGARETHA JACOBA MARIA (SWANEPOEL) (SMITH) (BRYANT) HYDE was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Elder John Francis and confirmed on the same day by Elder Earl Hutchins at Ramah.

ANNIE MATILDA MARIA (TEE) WILSON was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Gene B. Welling and confirmed on the same day by Elder Earl Hutchins at Ramah.

MAGDALENA JOSINA (PRETORIUS) SWANEPOEL was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Frank Crowther and confirmed on the same day by Elder Robert Taylor at Pretoria.

CECELIA WILHELMINA SWANEPOEL, daughter of Gabriel Stefanus and Magdalena Josina Pretorius, was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Frank Crowther and confirmed on the same day by Elder Robert Taylor at Pretoria.

SARAH JOHANNA (SMITH) FERREIRA was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Elder John Francis and confirmed on the same day by Elder Earl Hutchins at Ramah.

SUSARA JOHANNA FERREIRA, daughter of William Ferreira and Sarah Johanna (Smith) was baptised and confirmed on December 5th, 1954, by Elder John Francis at Ramah.

HARRY GREER was baptised on December 5th, 1954, and confirmed on the same day by Elder Dean Jarman at Welkom, O.F.S.

PATRICIA JOAN (BRIGGS) GREER was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Elder Dean Jarman and confirmed on the same day by Elder Gary L. Platt at Welkom, O.F.S.

HARMONY GEORGIA BERRY, daughter of Jack and Joy Kathleen (Smith), was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Brother Tex Smith and confirmed on the same day by Elder John Francis at Johannesburg.

JOYETTE SIGNE BERRY, daughter of Jack and Joy Kathleen (Smith), was baptised on December 5th, 1954, by Brother Tex Smith and confirmed on the same day by Elder Earl Hutchins at Johannesburg.

JOE FREDERICUS STEMMET, son of Johan Frederik and Gertruida Johanna (Prins), was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder



ELDER EVERTON

Elder **GEORGE B. EVERTON** and Sister **ELLEN N. EVERTON** were honourably released from their missionary labours on the 24th of December, 1954, and sailed aboard the "Dominion Monarch" for Australia en route to the United States.

Shortly after their arrival in South Africa two years ago, Elder Everton was appointed genealogical supervisor for the South African Mission and then travelled to Pretoria where he, with Sister Everton, opened up the area while contacting many of the government officials in regards to the use of genealogical records in this country. Through their efforts the ground work of genealogy was laid with the hope that someday micro-filming of the

(Continued on page 16)



SISTER EVERTON

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SISTER OSBORNE

Sister **DENISE M. OSBORNE** and Sister **JEAN F. MARCHAND** were released from their missionary labours on December 22nd after completing an honourable mission. Both Sisters returned to their homes—Sister Osborne to Johannesburg and Sister Marchand to Durban—after their release.

These two Sisters laboured their entire mission of 12 months in the mission office where their time was spent profitably in serving their Heavenly Father.

During their stay in Cape Town they made many friends to whom they taught the Gospel. They worked hard and are going to be missed by the missionaries and members who were



SISTER MARCHAND

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 14)

Garn Christensen and confirmed on the same day by Brother Johan F. Stemmet at Springs.

JOHANNES VAN ZYL, son of Nicholaas Johannes and Elizabeth Johanna Maria Stemmet, was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Garn Christensen and confirmed on the same day by Brother Johan P. Brummer at Springs.

VICTOR JAMES RUSTON was baptised on December 19th, 1954, by Elder Jerald Henderson and confirmed on the same day by Elder Gary Forbush at Mowbray.

MARGARET ELIZABETH (PRINS) RUSTON was baptised on December 19th, 1954, by Elder Gary E. Forbush and confirmed on the same day by Elder Jerald Henderson at Mowbray.

ELIZABETH NOEL DAUBNEY, daughter of Stanley Newberry and Mary Gweneth Graham, was baptised on December 12th, 1954, by Elder Ronald O. Ragsdale and confirmed on the same day by Brother Wilfred S. Wrench at Bloemfontein.

SHIRLEY NADINE SPEAR, daughter of Sydney John and Inez Elizabeth Altona, was baptised on December 12th, 1954, by Brother Sydney J. Spear at Bloemfontein.

ORDINATIONS

LEGRAND ALTON DOLLER was ordained a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood on December 5th, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton at Durban.

DEPARTURES (Continued)

(Sisters Osborne and Marchand)

acquainted with them. Their kind and considerate manner and their devotion to the work of the Lord will long be remembered by all their associates. May the Lord bless these two Sisters; and now as they return to their homes may the missionary spirit live always in their lives.

(Elder and Sister Everton)

records in this country, could take place. This would be of great assistance to the members in genealogical research.

From Pretoria they travelled to Cape Town where they continued to stimulate the people in research work. Port Elizabeth was their next assignment where Elder Everton acted as supervising missionary before he was transferred to Durban where he spent the last five months of his mission acting as Supervising Elder, Branch and District President of the Durban Branch and Natal District.

The missionary labours of the Evertons will long be remembered by the saints in this land and as Elder Everton and his good wife, Sister Everton, return to their homeland, the members and missionaries join together in wishing them success in their future endeavours and congratulations for a mission well performed.

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments took place December 20th, 1954, after convention:

SISTER PHYLLIS M. JOHNSON was appointed Mission Recorded and Supervisor of the Sunday School and M.I.A. organizations.

SISTER MARLENE L. NEWBY was appointed Private Secretary to the Mission President.

ELDER DEAN JARMAN was appointed Supervising Elder of the Pretoria District.

ELDER JERALD R. JOHANSEN was appointed Supervising Elder, Branch and District President of the Bloemfontein Branch and District.

ELDER GARY E. ELLIOTT was appointed Supervising Elder, Branch and District President of the Durban Branch and Natal District.

ELDER GARY L. PLATT was appointed Supervising Elder at Welkom.

ELDER CURTIS L. TRACY was appointed Supervising Elder, Branch and District President of the East London Branch and District.

DISTRICT DIVIDED

On December 20th, the missionaries in the West Rand District were divided into two separate districts. These areas are now known as the West Rand and Pretoria Districts. The headquarters of the West Rand District still remains at Johannesburg while Pretoria becomes the centre of the new district.

AS I GO MY WAY

My life shall touch a dozen lives
 Before this year is done,
 Make countless marks for good or ill,
 Ere sets the evening sun.
 So this is the thought I always think,
 The prayer I always pray:
 "Lord, may my life bless other lives
 It touches by the way."

—Gillilan.

District Highlights

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Branch President: Clarence Doller,
18 Caithness Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth.
Reported by Madge McHugh.

The Building Fund Committee held a curry and rice supper followed by a bazaar later in the month. Both were successful.

We were fortunate in having Sisters Blackburn and Huskinson, and Elder and Sister Everton stop by here on their way home. Although we only saw them for a short while it was nice meeting them once again. We wish them a pleasant voyage home.

The Sunday School held their usual Christmas tree party and it certainly was a full house attending. Brother Wentsel Everton showed he could take the part of Father Christmas very well.

Saturday the 11th dawned clear and perfect for the uniting in holy matrimony of President Clarence Doller and June Warren. It was a lovely wedding and the newly married couple set off on their honeymoon with all the good wishes of the members.

To Elder Spencer and Elder Bean we said farewell as they left for convention. We are going to miss them very much and wish them lots of luck in their new fields of labour.

As all our members go away for Christmas we welcome members from other branches—Brother and Sister Charsley from Rhodesia with their family, and Sister Welsh from Cape Town; and wish the members of the Church and friends throughout South Africa a happy New Year.

KRUGERSDORP BRANCH

Branch President: Derryck U. Vice,
82 Von Brandis Street, Krugersdorp, Tvl.
Reported by Yvonne Cloete

After having Sister van der Merwe in our midst again, we realise just how much we missed her at all our gatherings. We sincerely hope that eventually she will permanently settle in Krugersdorp.

Sister Norma Sawyer represented us at the Green and Gold Ball organized by Ramah Branch. Judging from her report we definitely regret the fact that we were unable to attend.

Fast Sunday brought the last testimony meeting for the year, and all present felt the desire

to bear their testimonies and thank our Heavenly Father for all past blessings. The little hall was overflowing with feelings of sincerity and humility. The testimony that drew tears to all eyes was given by one of our youngest and newest members—little Elrene Petersen. How one envies the sublime faith of a child.

We were indeed fortunate in having our District Presidency at our Sacrament meeting, and with the time at their disposal we had the opportunity of having three inspirational talks by Brothers I. C. Louw, J. Brummer and G. Kote. After the meeting one felt spiritually invigorated and convinced that God calls men to be his servants.

On behalf of Elders Thacker and Miller and the teachers of Primary we wish to thank the members for their excellent moral and material support to the cake sale held in aid of the Primary Christmas Tree and Fancy Dress Party. With adequate funds at their disposal the function, on the 8th of December, was most successful. The highlights of the afternoon was Elder Thacker as good old Santa Claus and Elder Miller as a most convincing frog. Undoubtedly the three Sisters had a difficult time in judging the ultimate prize-winners. It was with a sense of gratitude and relief that the children were bidden farewell until next year.

The branch Sunday School Christmas tree party held on the 11th was another red-letter day for the children of the Branch. The Sisters who were responsible for the original gifts and delightful refreshments, must be complimented on the grand effort—Krugersdorp is proud of them.

In closing, this branch extends to all saints sincere wishes for God's richest blessings in the New Year.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Curtis L. Tracy,
51 Frere Road, East London.
Reported by Mona McCallum.

For the month of December the East London Branch has had a very busy and exciting month.

On the 27th November Brother T. W. C. Darke entered the waters of Baptism at Nahoon mouth. Many of the Saints gathered

to witness this inspiring ceremony. A short service was conducted by Elder Elliott and Sister McCallum spoke a few words. We welcome Brother Darke into our midst and by his actions he has already proved an asset to the Branch.

M.I.A. was only recently started here and on the 1st December, Brother H. M. Jubber and Sister Theo Booysen successfully organised an outing to the "bio." This is the first time we have enjoyed an outing of this nature.

Two days later we all gathered at the home of Sister McCallum to hold our annual Christmas Tree Party, which took the form of a hamburger supper party. Members joined in singing carols until the arrival of Santa Claus, who generously distributed parcels and sweets to the children. Even the never-ending rain could not dampen the gay spirits or life of the party, which was originally intended to be held on the lawn.

We were sorry to hear that Elder Elliott wouldn't be returning to East London after convention for we enjoyed his association here. We extend a welcome to Elder Donald Spencer and hope he will enjoy his labours in East London.

The daughters of Brother and Sister Human, Dianne and Elizabeth, were recently blessed. After Sacrament Service one night, the whole meeting drove out to the West Bank to the Scheidel home to witness the blessing of the new daughter, Heather, by Brother H. M. Jubber. The Scheidels, who have only recently moved so far out of town, were completely taken by surprise, and everyone was happy to see them again.

We are pleased to report that Cheryl Randall is making good progress after her severe bronchitis attack.

With deep regret we record the death of Mr. J. R. McGill after a long illness. We pray the Lord will bless and comfort Sisters Jean and Rona and their sisters in their sad loss.

We miss the Corrigan family who are on holiday at the Cape. We hope Sister Corrigan will return feeling much better in health.

Relief Society organised a kitchen tea for Sister Theo Booysen a week before her wedding to Brother Fred Matthews on the 23rd. Theo received many useful utensils on this occasion. The Christmas Tree Party was used to make Theo a presentation of a canteen of cutlery for her untiring and unselfish efforts in building up the Branch.

President Duncan flew to East London to perform the marriage service. The S.O.E. Hall was transformed by the beautiful floral

arrangements, but nothing could eclipse the beauty and radiance that emanated from the bride. A beautiful service was concluded with the rendering of "Where E'er You Walk" by Sister Jean McGill, after Theo and Fred had been pronounced man and wife.

The reception was held in the St. Saviour's Hall. Elder Tracy acted as M.C. and Denise Ainsley sang three beautiful songs. The Bridal Party opened up the dancing as they waltzed down the Hall and the guests soon joined in. Sister E. Toughy caught the bridal bouquet.

Theo will be sadly missed as she has been an outstanding worker in the branch, but as she leaves East London may the Lord bless her, and this happy union, by giving Theo and Fred the earnest desires of their hearts.

The night preceding the wedding the M.I.A. put on a special Christmas programme in honour of President Duncan's visit and we were pleased to hear from our beloved Mission President at the conclusion of a most enjoyable evening.

RAMAH BRANCH

Branch President: Norman G. Muir,
119 Kitchener Ave., Bez Valley, Johannesburg

Reported by Tex W. Smith

During the past month Ramah has witnessed a definite increase in membership to the church. The Kingdom of God is surely growing. On Sunday, November 21st, Thora Joyce Coxen Castleman, Trevor Charlton, Judith M. A. J. (Reynocke) Terblanche, Joe Stemmett and Johannes Van Zyl, all entered the waters of baptism. On December 5th, Ramah again had the pleasure of welcoming more members when Sisters Wilson and Hyde and the Ramah twins, Joyette and Harmony Berry, were baptised. May the Lord bless these new members and keep them close to the Gospel always.

The branch Relief Society social held on a Saturday afternoon was a big success—good food, fun and entertainment being the highlight. Fifty-nine members turned out in appreciation to Sister Wagner and her counsellors' hard work which resulted in an excellent affair.

The highlight of the year was the M.I.A.'s Gold and Green Ball, held in the Duncan Hall. This was an unqualified success plus a grand social affair. It was well enjoyed by the excellent crowd that attended. Many people were highly complimentary to this "Ball" and the fine social atmosphere. The decorations, which were built around a "Hawaiian" theme, were under the direction of Sister Signe

Smith who should certainly be highly commended. Sister Norma Muir also is to be congratulated for her excellent arrangements of food and fine table service. Good music was provided by Lawrence Kelly and the "Kit Kat" dance band. Good work M.I.A., Ramah is proud of you.

Sisters Edie Muir, Kitty Smith and Reckas have all been ill, but we are happy to report they are all well on the road to recovery.

The M.I.A. held a Square Dance as part of their summer programme, Tuesday, December 7th, at Ramah. It was an enjoyable affair.

On Saturday, December 11th, all Transvaal missionaries departed for the convention at "Cumorah," Cape Town. We extend good wishes and a safe return.

The Sunday School Christmas Tree party held at Ramah, Saturday, December 18th, was well attended and was an excellent party with good entertainment by a Conjuror. Father Christmas, that seasonable old gentleman, was enthusiastically welcomed.

The Christmas holidays have depleted the attendance at Ramah. Chris Louw and Ivan Muir are touring the country and the Wrench Family are holidaying at the Cape.

We extend cordial seasonable greetings and a happy and prosperous New Year to all. May God pour his choicest blessings on the saints throughout the world.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Branch President: Alwin Hubert,
129 Beach Road, Mouille Point, C.P.

Reported by Beatrice E. Smith

By the time this news goes to print, the New Year will be well on its way and the members of the Cumorah Branch would like to welcome 1955 and to wish our members everywhere a really happy new year filled with blessings spiritual and temporal.

A fireside chat was held on December 5th, and we were privileged to be present at the Sheaf-Binding Ceremony which was presented by our young girls. Sister Altha van Schalkwyk, Diana Hodges and Laverne Park won the coveted Silver Gleaner awards and Sister Elna Duncan has become the M.I.A. Joy. The entire programme was one of sheer beauty, and we were all in agreement with Brother Alwin Hubert when he accepted the sheaf and spoke on the beauty of chastity and faith in the lives of four girls who are now standing on the threshold of fair womanhood.

The Relief Society Parties of 1954 have been wonderful affairs, and the series was brought

to an outstanding finish by the Christmas Tree Party which was held on December 2nd. There were about seventy guests and Santa Claus had gifts for everyone in his sack. The games were good fun and Sister Edith Wüid and Elder Grismore are to be congratulated on the planning that went into their entertainment programme along with all of those who helped to make the evening a success.

The Sunday School was in charge of the evening service on 5th December. Our little ones rendered the hymn, "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" and talks were given by Brother Clyde Geldenhuys, Brother Gordon Terblanche, Sister Yvonne van Rhyn and Jill Welch as well as the concluding address by President Duncan. The programme had a marked effect on those in attendance.

One of our very happy events was the musical festival arranged by the M.I.A. on 30th November. The programme was in the very capable hands of Brother Hugh Helm, who kept us entertained with items of real musical worth. The songs and the solos, as well as the recorded symphonic movements, were all very well received and we are grateful to all who took part in this programme.

One of our innovations during 1954 was the Teacher Training Class, and those attending had the chance of putting their course to test at the last class of the year—which was held on 8th December. Demonstrations were given involving the use of the blackboard, pictures, flannel-board and puppets. This was a most enjoyable evening and we felt that we had all learned much during the past year.

We are pleased to report that Michael Terblanche's operation for tonsillitis has been a success, and that Sister Clarissa Bibb is making good progress since her operation.

There was a big crowd present at Sacrament Service on the 12th when Brother Dick Ninow and Sisters Jean Marchand and Denise Osborne gave their farewell talks. Dick is going to Canada and the two Sisters are returning to their homes here in South Africa. May happiness attend them in their new ventures.

The Missionary Convention is always one of the great events in any year and we were delighted to have it held at Mowbray again this year. It was indeed a thrill to welcome the missionaries arriving. This was an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and to make many new friends. With each group came news of friends in the other branches of South Africa and we are indeed gratified to know how our friends are maintaining steadfastness in the Gospel.



He was a spritely elderly man—one that had compressed many careers into one very enjoyable lifetime. His formula for happiness was to always look to the future—never to the past. And each time he was asked which of all his days in his long life proved to be the most interesting, he'd reply: "Today."

May the blessings of the Lord be with us throughout the coming year, helping us all to live and learn the Gospel with the dawning of each new day.

Happy New Year!

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Leroy H. Duncan Mission President.

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